

Citizens Review Panel Program

Goals:

To evaluate the extent to which Child Protective Services is effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities.

Program Components:

In 1999, Arizona created the Citizen Review Panel, in compliance with the federal Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. Citizen Review Panels are made up of volunteers including citizens and various professionals and agencies serving children throughout Arizona. Panels evaluate the extent to which Child Protective Services is effectively discharging their child protection responsibilities. Panels review Child Protective Services cases, data reports, policies, and procedures. The Citizen Review Panel prepares an annual report that includes review findings and recommendations for Arizona's child protection system.

Funding

DES

Target Audience:

DES policy makers, CAPTA

Why is this Program Needed?

Volunteers in our community are working on behalf of children. They're offering insight, suggesting changes and helping make improvements in the child protection system to ensure children in our community are safe.

What has the Program Achieved?

The panels make annual recommendations to Child Protective Services for improvements or changes to policy and procedures. Since the program was created in 1999, the program has seen scores of their recommendations successfully implemented by Child Protective Services. Recent recommendations that have successfully been implemented include; the developed a safe sleep brochure by Child Protective Services to disperse to families because of concerns regarding deaths associated with unsafe sleep environments; implementation of standardized curriculum for prospective foster parents and changes to foster care licensing practices.

For Additional Information Contact:

Contact the Citizen Review Panel Program at:

Telephone: (602) 542-1875

Fax: (602) 542-1843

Leadership for a Healthy Arizona

